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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorney General's Office Offers Training for Volunteer Mediators

(Phoenix, Ariz. – Jan. 31, 2006) The Arizona Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division, in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Court, is offering 40-hour mediation courses free of charge throughout the state to train volunteers to help resolve local court disputes.

Mediators are neutral parties who try to help disputing parties reach an agreement between them. It is a valuable alternative to litigation, saving time, money and stress for the parties. Mediation also reduces the courts' heavy caseloads.

These courses are open to the public. In exchange for the free training, those who successfully complete the course must agree to mediate a certain number of court disputes on a volunteer basis. Each court has its own mediation requirements. Disputes to be mediated include small claims, commercial, truancy and other types of cases. The Attorney General's Office has been training mediators for the courts since 1984 and has its own volunteer mediation program for resolving civil rights cases.

The 40-hour mediation training will be offered at the following locations on these dates:

- Kingman, Mohave County -- February 22, 23, 24; March 2, 3
- Phoenix, Maricopa County -- March 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
- Casa Grande, Pinal County -- April 3, 4, 5, 10, 11
- Flagstaff, Coconino County -- May 10, 11, 12, 18, 19
- Phoenix, Maricopa County -- June 7, 8, 9, 15, 16

Training sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a working lunch and end at 4:30 p.m. each day. Participants must complete all five days of training to become eligible to mediate for the courts.

If you are interested in registering for one of these training sessions or have any questions, please contact Garrett Hoover, Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator, in the Civil Rights Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. He can be reached by phone at (602) 542-7767 or email at Garrett.Hoover@azag.gov. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

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